3. NEMATODES AND HEDGEHOG MORTALITY

While studying the feeding habits of captive hedgehogs, we observed a sudden increase in their mortality, though all the favourable conditions were provided to them. The reason for this incidence was thought to be the spread of some epidemic among them. We dissected some ailing hedgehogs and noticed the presence of innumerable cysts of *Trichinella* sp., throughout the viscera of the animals. Our attention was directed towards the food which was being given to them. At that time we were feeding them on the 'Rat-tailed bats', *Rhinopoma kinneari* Wroughton. On dissecting the bats we found that their alimentary canals also contained a large number of these nematodes.

To ascertain the probability that nematodes were responsible for the mortality, four wild hedgehogs, *Hemiechinus auritus collaris* Gray, were caught. Two were dissected. Every organ was thoroughly examined and found to be free from *Trichinella* sp. The remaining two hedgehogs were then kept in a cage and were supplied with fifty *R. kinneari*. During the first two days they consumed about forty bats. From the third day onwards they ceased to feed and showed signs of lethargy. On the fourth day their sluggishness increased, and on the fifth day one of them took to a corner of the cage and was unable to respond to any stimulus. The other was moving slowly and tumbling down at every step. It showed signs of epilepsy also. Its body trembled violently at intervals. This condition was seen frequently till the evening. On the sixth morning both were breathing spasmodically. Some liquid was also oozing out of their mouths and noses. At 1 p.m. on the sixth day they were reported dead. On dissecting the hedgehogs, nematodes were found in the alimentary canal, pericardium, liver, lungs, and brain. Even the ribs were affected.

It might be interesting to note that these parasites had no obvious effect on three juvenile foxes, *Vulpes vulpes pusilla* Blyth and three adult mongooses, *Herpestes edwardsii ferrugineus* Blanford. These animals were also provided with *R. kinneari*, which had *Trichinella* sp. in their alimentary canals.

Department of Zoology,
Jaswant College,
Jodhpur,
May 10, 1955.

ISHWAR PRAKASH
S. C. SHARMA

4. TUFTED DEER IN BURMA
(*ELAPHODUS CEPHALOPHUS* MILNE-EDWARDS)

(*With a photo*)

A male Tufted Deer was shot by a member of the Frontier Development Enquiry Commission near Panwa Pass—longitude 98° 30′, latitude 25°40′, altitude 6,500 ft.—on the 18th December 1954. Enclosed is a photo of the mounted head. D. M. Williams, Esq., also